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10 Attorneys for Defendant
11 JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC.

12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

14 DIRK T. GRIFFIN, on behalf of himself
15 and the tax payers of the State of
16 California; PINNER CONSTRUCTION
17 CO., INC., a California corporation;
18 MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY
19 SYSTEMS, INC., a California
20 corporation; MCGUIRE
21 CONTRACTING, INC., a Nevada
22 corporation,

23 Plaintiffs,

24 v.

25 MARK W. STRAUSS, an individual;
26 DACM PROJECT MANAGEMENT,
27 INC., a Florida corporation; ARCADIS
28 U.S., INC., a Delaware corporation;
JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP
INC., a Delaware corporation; KEVIN
TYRELL, an individual; GIG
PUKPRAYURA, an individual; QDG
INCORPORATED, a California
corporation; LOS ANGELES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT,
an agency organized and existing
pursuant to the laws of the State of
California; and DOES 1-50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:22-cv-6183

Los Angeles Superior Court Case
No. 22STCV24860

**JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP
INC.'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF
ACTION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C.
§ 1441**

1 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 *et seq.*, Defendant Jacobs Engineering Group
2 Inc. (“JEG”) hereby files a Notice of Removal for the above-captioned action to
3 this Court.

4 In further support of this Notice of Removal, JEG states:

5 1. JEG is a named Defendant in Civil Action No. 22STCV24860 filed by
6 Plaintiffs Dirk T. Griffin, on behalf of himself and the tax payers of the State of
7 California; Pinner Construction Co., Inc., a California corporation; Mechanical
8 Technology Systems, Inc., a California corporation; McGuire Contracting, Inc., a
9 Nevada corporation (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) in the Superior Court of California,
10 County of Los Angeles (the “State Court Action”).¹

11 2. The Complaint (“Complaint”) in the State Court Action was filed with
12 the Clerk of the Superior Court for the State of California, County of Los Angeles,
13 on August 2, 2022.

14 3. JEG received a copy of the Complaint on or after August 2, 2022.
15 This Notice of Removal is accordingly being filed with this Court within thirty (30)
16 days after JEG received a copy of Plaintiffs’ Complaint setting forth the claims for
17 relief upon which Plaintiffs’ action is based. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

18 4. The time period for filing a responsive pleading in the State Court
19 Action has not expired as of the filing of this Notice of Removal.

20 5. This Court is the proper district court for removal because the State
21 Court Action is pending within this district.

22 6. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), a copy of all process, pleadings,
23 record of electronic filings with the Court, and orders in the State Court Action are
24 attached hereto as Exhibit 1. To the best of JEG’s knowledge, no further
25 proceedings, process, pleadings, orders, or other papers have been filed or served in

26 ¹ We believe Plaintiffs have incorrectly named JEG as a defendant in the Complaint. JEG
27 is not a party to the alleged contract with The Los Angeles Community College District. Instead,
28 Jacobs Project Management Co. is the entity that has a contract with The Los Angeles
Community College District. Plaintiffs’ incorrect naming of JEG as a defendant in the Complaint
will be addressed at a later time.

1 the State Court Action.

2 8. The other defendants named in the Complaint (Mark W. Strauss;
3 DACM Project Management Inc.; Arcadis U.S. Inc.; Kevin Tyrell; Gig Pukprayura;
4 QDG Incorporated; and the Los Angeles Community College District) consent to
5 this removal. *See* attached Exhibit 2.

6 9. The State Court Action includes a claim that arises under the
7 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961 *et*
8 *seq.* This claim for relief under RICO gives this Court original subject matter
9 jurisdiction over the above-captioned action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 18
10 U.S.C. § 1964(c). The above-captioned action may properly be removed to this
11 United States District Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). In addition to the
12 RICO cause of action, there are four other causes of action that arise under the same
13 set of facts as the RICO claim. As a consequence, this Court has supplemental
14 jurisdiction over the four claims. This is because these claims: (i) arise from the
15 same set of operative facts that underlie Plaintiffs' RICO claims; and (ii) relate to
16 the same subject matter; namely allegedly false and fraudulent statements.
17 Accordingly, Plaintiffs' state-law claims are related to their federal question
18 allegations, thereby forming a part of the "same case and controversy" pursuant to
19 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

20 10. Promptly after the filing of this Notice of Removal, JEG shall provide
21 notice of the removal to Plaintiffs' attorney of record in the State Court Action, and
22 shall file a copy of this Notice with the clerk of the Court in the State Court Action,
23 as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).


24 11. By filing this Notice of Removal, JEG does not waive any defense to
25 the Complaint, including but not limited to lack of service, improper service, or
26 lack of personal jurisdiction.

27 WHEREFORE, JEG notices the removal of this case to the United States
28 District Court for the Central District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441

1 *et seq.*

2
3 Dated: August 30, 2022

JONES DAY

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5 By: 
6 Daniel D. McMillan

7 Attorneys for Defendant
8 JACOBS ENGINEERING
9 GROUP INC.
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